Import of wheat and rice

1995. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and quality of wheat and rice imported in the country, separately, during the last six months alongwith the price of its import and the dates therefor;

(b) the quantum of wheat, gram, rice and other foodgrains expected to be imported during the next six months (March, 2008) alongwith the price thereof at which expected to be imported;

(c) the main reasons for the said imports; and

(d) the distribution pattern of the imported wheat and rice in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) to (d) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Rise in cost of pulses

1996. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cost of pulses has gone up in domestic market and the cost of imported pulses has also gone up;

(b) if so, the reason therefor; and

(c) the remedial action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) and (b) International prices of imported pulses mainly chana, tur, masoor, yellow and dun peas have shown an increase during the last one year. However, international prices of urad and moong shown a decline. On the other side, whole sale domestic prices of pulses mainly chana, urad and moong have been showing down ward trend due to import of pulses. However, domestic wholesale prices of tur and masoor dal are showing an increase due to decline in production of tur dal and masoor dal.

(c) Remedial action taken in this regard is as follows:—

(i) Customs duty on import of pulses was reduce to zero on June 8, 2006 and the period of validity of import of pulses at zero duty has been extended from 31.3.07 to 1.8.2007 and further to 31.3.09.

(ii) A ban was imposed on export of pulses with effect from June 22, 2006 (except export of Kabuli chana w.e.f. 7.3.07). The period of validity of prohibition on exports of pulses which was initially upto 31.3.07 was further extended upto 31.3.2008 *vide* DGFT Notification dated 9.3.2007.

(iii) As per initiative of Government the State agencies (NAFED, PEC Ltd, MMTC and STC) would target to import 1.5 Million Metric Tonnes (MMT) of imports of pulses. Out of the total contracts of 12.23 lakh tonnes made by these agencies, 7.21 lakh tonnes have arrived up to 13.11.2007.

(iv) Forward Markets Commission (FMC) has on 23.01.07, directed the three National Exchanges, namely (a) Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., (b) National, Commodity & Derivatives Exchange Ltd., (c) National Multi Commodity Exchange of India Ltd., to delist all contracts of tur and urad and to close out all outstanding positions in all Tur and Urad contracts at the closing price on 23.01.07. FMC has also stated that no further contract shall be launched without its prior approval and permission already granted to launch contracts in Urad and Tur stands withdrawn.

(v) Keeping in view the prevailing price situation, the Central Government had issued a Central Order dated 29.8.2006 under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 to enable the State Governments to invoke Stock Limits in respect of wheat and pulses for a period of 6 months. By virtue of this Order, the State Governments/UT Administrations have been empowered to take effective action to bring out the hoarded stock of these items to ensure their availability to the common people at reasonable prices. Government has, on 1.9.2007, extended the validity of the Central Order by another six months.

Fair Price Shops in Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

†1997. SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:
SHRI MOTILAL VORA:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the per capita quantity of foodgrains being provided in Fair Price Shops in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the rate at which rice, wheat, sugar and kerosene are being provided to card holders (BPL) in fair price shops; and

(c) the cities in Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh where fair price shops are located and the number of fair price shops of foodgrains being run by private persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Rice or/and Wheat—As reported by State Governments, BPL (including AAY) Card holders are being provided 35 kg. foodgrains per family per month in Chhattisgarh. In Madhya Pradesh AAY ration card holders are being provided 35 kg. foodgrains per month per family and BPL ration card holders are being provided 20.250 kg. foodgrain per month.

(b) In Chhattisgarh AAY ration card holders are being provided Wheat @ Rs. 2 and Rice @ Rs. 3 per kg., and BPL card holders are being provided wheat @ 4.75 per kg. and Rice @ Rs. 6.75 per kg. Kerosene is being issued @ Rs. 8.94 to Rs. 9.96 per litre depending upon the distances from oil company depot. In Madhya Pradesh AAY ration card holders are being provided wheat @Rs. 2 and Rice @Rs. 3, and BPL ration card holders are being provided Wheat @Rs. 5.00 per kg. and Rice Rs. 6.50 per kg. Kerosene is being issued @Rs. 9.19 to Rs. 11.17 per litre in various districts depending upon distance for transportation.

The retail issue price of levy sugar under the PDS is Rs. 13.50 per kg. only to BPL families throughout the country since 01.03.2002.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.